

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 152891

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 152891 ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS

ISTANBUL NICOSIA USUN

JULY 15TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 152891

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
JULY 15 DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS.

"MR. ANDERSON: I HAVE A NUMBER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS TODAY.
NO. 1, THERE ARE THREE APPOINTMENTS THE SECRETARY IS
HAVING TODAY TO ADD TO THE SCHEDULE YOU ALREADY HAVE.
HE SAW AMBASSADOR HUANG CHEN THIS MORNING. HE WILL BE
SEEING AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, WHO I UNDERSTAND IS RETURNING
TO THE SOVIET UNION. AND HE WILL BE SEEING THE CYPRIOT
AMBASSADOR - DIMITRIOU - AT THE CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR'S
REQUEST.

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Q: WHEN IS THE CYPRIOT COMING IN?

A: HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN AT 12:30 - 12:45, ABOUT
NOW.

Q: IS THERE ANY OVERLAP BETWEEN THE KISSINGER-DOBRYNIN MEETING AND THE KISSINGER-CYPRIOT MEETING? -- BECAUSE YOU SAID THE ONE MEETING WAS FOR LUNCH AND THE OTHER MAN IS COMING IN AT 12:30 - 12:45. ARE THE THREE OF THEM TOGETHER?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT TIME OF THE LUNCHEON. I'M SURE THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE AN OVERLAP.

Q: THEY WON'T BE TOGETHER AT LUNCH THOUGH?

A: NO, NO.

Q: HAS THE DOBRYNIN MEETING GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS?

A: NO. I THINK THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS THE SECRETARY HAS THESE PERIODIC MEETINGS, AS YOU ALL KNOW, AND THIS IS BEFORE THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR RETURNS ... NOW, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON CYPRUS. OUR EMBASSY IN NICOSIA HAS CONFIRMED THAT A COUP D'ETAT WAS INITIATED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT THIS MORNING. OUR FIRST INFORMATION REPORTED GUNFIRE IN THE AREA OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SHORTLY BEFORE 8:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME.

SINCE THEN, WE HAVE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL REPORTS THAT THE PALACE WAS ON FIRE AND THAT THERE WAS SCATTERED SHOOTING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE ISLAND. WE HAVE NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT ANY AMERICANS HAVE BEEN INJURED OR THAT UNITED STATES PROPERTY HAS BEEN DAMAGED.

AT THIS TIME THE INTERNAL SITUATION IS UNCLEAR. WE HAVE HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS IS DEAD.

THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG BEEN ONRECORD AS OPPOSED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY RESORT TO VIOLENCE ON THE ISLAND. OUR POLICY REMAINS THAT OF SUPPORTING THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS AND ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND WE URGE ALL OTHER STATES TO SUPPORT A SIMILAR POLICY.

THE SECRETARY WAS NOTIFIED EARLY THIS MORNING OF THE EVENTS IN CYPRUS, AND HE CHAIRED A WSAG MEETING -- WASHINGTON SPECIAL ACTION GROUP MEETING -AT 10:15 THIS MORNING.

Q: IS THAT IT?

A: THAT'S THE STATEMENT, YES.

Q: WHEN WAS YOUR LAST REPORT FROM NICOSIA? I ASSUME THIS IS BASED ON EMBASSY REPORTS.

A: YES. WELL, TELEGRAMS HAVE BEEN COMING IN THIS

MORNING. I DON'T KNOW ---

Q: WELL, MY QUESTION IS: ARE THEY COMING IN UNINTERRUPTED? -- BECAUSE THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THERE WAS A CUT OF COMMUNICATIONS.

A: WE ARE IN COMMUNICATION WITH OUR EMBASSY IN CYPRUS.

Q: WELL, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT THE SITUATION ISN'T CLEAR, SINCE A NEW PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY BEEN SWORN IN AND HAS MADE A SPEECH THAT'S BEEN REPORTED ON THE WIRE?

A: WE'VE SEEN THE SAME WIRE REPORTS THAT YOU HAVE AND --

Q: BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO DOUBT THAT A NEW PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED OVER THERE?

A: WE ARE WAITING TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF VARIOUS -- OF THE MANY, MANY PRESS REPORTS THAT ARE COMING IN, FROM OUR EMBASSY OVER THERE.

Q: YOU SAY YOU WERE AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A COUP UNCLASSIFIED

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D'ETAT; THAT'S BEEN REPORTED. DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU ACCEPT THE FACT THAT IT'S A SUCCESSFUL COUP D'ETAT?

A: NO, NO. WE'RE JUST ---

Q: I MEAN, ARE YOU CALLING THAT AN ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT? I MEAN, A COUP D'ETAT INDICATES --

A: NO. I JUST STAY BY THE STATEMENT THAT I READ. I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IT IN ANY WAY.

Q: YOUR STATEMENT SAYS THAT WE URGE ALL OTHER STATES TO SUPPORT A SIMILAR POLICY -- THAT IS, RESPECTING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SO ON. HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GREECE ON THIS SUBJECT TODAY?

A: WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, YES.

Q: ALSO WITH THE TURKS?

A: AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, YES. BUT I'D JUST LIKE

TO LEAVE IT THERE: WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE GREEK AND
TURKISH GOVERNMENTS.

Q: THE SCATTERED SHOOTING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE ISLAND --
DO WE HAVE ANY REPORTS TO INDICATE THAT THE SHOOTING IS
BETWEEN THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS OR
IS IT ONLY WITHIN THE COUP D'ETAT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THAT THAT COULD HELP YOU
AT THIS STAGE. IT'S JUST TOO EARLY AT THE MOMENT. THE
SITUATION IS UNCLEAR.

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT SOME FOREIGN
EMBASSIES IN NICOSIA HAVE BEEN BROKEN IN OR HAVE BEEN
OCCUPIED, TO SOME EXTENT, BY NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS AND
NATIONAL POLICE. HAVE ANY OF THE LOCAL FORCES ENTERED
THE U.S. EMBASSY?

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A: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO. WE'VE HAD NO SUCH REPORT AT ALL.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POLICY TOWARD UN ACTION?

A: WELL, THERE'S THE QUESTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. AS
FAR AS THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES THERE, I SUGGEST
THAT ONE ADDRESS ONESELF TO NEW YORK ON THAT -- TO THE UN.

Q: I ASKED FOR THE U.S. POLICY.

A: AND INSO FAR AS ANY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION OR ANY-
THING ELSE, I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT AT ALL.

Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE THERE IN THE REPORT?

A: I'D SAY, ROUGHLY -- INCLUDING OFFICIALS AND
THEIR DEPENDENTS -- ABOUT A HUNDRED -- AND
THEN AT ANY GIVEN TIME, IF YOU TAKE NON-OFFICIAL
AMERICANS, WITH TOURISTS COMING IN AND OUT, ROUGHLY ONE
TO TWO THOUSAND. IT VARIES CONSIDERABLY.

Q: INCLUDING TOURISTS?

A: YES.

Q: ANY THOUGHT GIVEN TO EVACUATE THEM?

A: NO. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ANY EVACUATION.

Q: WHAT'S THE TASK OF THE ACTION GROUP - GENERAL TASK -
AND WHO DOES BELONG TO THIS ACTION GROUP?

A: SECRETARY KISSINGER CHAIRS IT. THAT IS THE ONE THING I CAN GIVE YOU. AND WHENEVER A SITUATION LIKE THIS ARISES, THOSE DEPARTMENTS THAT WOULD BE MOST CONCERNED AND MOST HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM GET

TOGETHER WITH THE SECRETARY WEARING HIS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAT.

Q: THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, TOO?
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A: YES. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Q: IS THERE ANY REPORT SUBSEQUENTLY FROM SAN CLEMENTE?

A: I DO NOT KNOW.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF THERE'S BEEN ANY PRESIDENTIAL CONTACT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION?

A: I NEGLECTED TO ASK THE SECRETARY THIS WHEN I SAW HIM, BUT I FRANKLY WOULD ASSUME VERY DEFINITELY THAT THERE WERE. BUT THAT'S MY OWN ASSUMPTION.

Q: IS THERE ANY INFORMATION ON THE SIXTH FLEET?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SIXTH FLEET. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU WANT TO ASK THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT THAT.

Q: YOU SAY THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ANY EVACUATIONS. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT EVERY EMBASSY HAS PLANS FOR EVACUATION OF AMERICANS IN CASE OF NECESSITY. WHAT YOU MEAN IS THERE IS NO DECISION TO PUT INTO EFFECT ANY PLANS FOR EVACUATION?

A: THE SPLITTING OF YOUR HAIR WAS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, AND YOU HAVE SAID WHAT I SHOULD HAVE SAID. THERE IS NO PLAN WHATSOEVER AT THIS TIME TO PUT INTO OPERATION ANY EVACUATION PLAN.

Q: DID THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INDICATION BEFORE THIS MORNING THAT THERE MIGHT BE A COUP IN THE MAKING?

A: WELL, FOR SOMETIME THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS WAS GROWING. AND RECENTLY IN A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF GREECE, ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS ACCUSED MAINLAND GREEK OFFICERS OF THE CYPRIOT NATIONAL GUARD OF
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SUPPORTING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS AND REQUESTED THE RECALL OF ALL THESE GREEK OFFICERS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE. THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT.

Q: THEY WERE NOT RECALLED THOUGH, AND IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME, I THINK -- OR CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THESE GREEK OFFICERS -- THE NUMBER IS ABOUT 600 -- THEY WERE HEADING THIS COUP D'ETAT?

A: WELL, AS I SAID EARLIER IN THE STATEMENT, THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS IS REALLY VERY, VERY UNCLEAR AND I'M UNABLE AT THIS POINT TO COMMENT ON WHATEVER OUTSIDE INFLUENCE, IF ANY, MAY BE AT PLAY.

Q: YOUR SENTENCE HERE THAT YOU ARE FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE SEEMS TO INDICATE TO ME AT LEAST THAT YOU AGAINST ENOSIS, THE REJOINING OF CYPRUS TO GREECE, WHICH IS THE AIM OF THESE GREEK OFFICERS.

A: I'D RATHER JUST PUT IT IN TERMS OF WHAT I'VE SAID EARLIER IN A MORE POSITIVE SENSE THAT OUR POLICY REMAINS THAT OF SUPPORTING THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS AND ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY SPECIAL EFFORT TO CONVENE NATO OR TO GET IN TOUCH WITH NATO AS A GROUP? BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE ARE MEMBERS OF NATO.

A: YES. I HAVE SEEN NOTHING FROM BRUSSELS ON THIS AS YET, BUT I AM SURE THAT THE NATO COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING THE QUESTION AND THAT WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH OUR MISSION TO NATO.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN A POLICY OR A POSITION ON THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS? AND, IF SO, WHAT IS OUR POSITION NOW ABOUT THAT?

A: I HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS SUBJECT FOR SINCE 1965 I THINK IT WAS -- '64, AND I HAVE NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT AND I WOULD RATHER JUST NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENT.

Q: DO YOU RECALL WHAT THE POSITION WAS '65 OR '64?

A: I THINK IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME AS IT IS NOW, WE WERE VERY, VERY CAREFUL AT THAT TIME TO MAKE SURE THAT WE

DIDN'T GET IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. ...

Q: CAN WE GO BACK TO MAKARIOS JUST A MOMENT? YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T CONFIRM THE REPORT OF HIS DEATH. YOU KNOW THERE'S ANOTHER REPORT THAT HE IS IN THE SAFE HANDS OF

THE UN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES. I TAKE IT THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED NO CONFIRMATION OF THAT REPORT EITHER.

A: NO. I SAW THIS SECOND REPORT THAT YOU MENTIONED JUST AS I WAS WALKING IN HERE. SO I THINK THAT I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING FROM OUR EMBASSY YET, AND THAT IS WHY WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE IT AS OF RIGHT NOW JUST WHERE WE LEFT IT IN THE STATEMENT THAT I MENTIONED.

Q: GOING BACK TO YOUR STATEMENT THAT THERE WERE -- AND I'M PARAPHRASING NOW -- INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE VIOLENCE ON CYPRUS FORESEEN HERE, WAS THE SECRETARY, OR WAS ANYONE ELSE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF NEGOTIATIONS OR URGINGS, PRIVATE, PRIOR TO THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE TO TRY TO HEAD IT OFF? IS THIS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN BREWING FOR SOME TIME AND BEHIND THE SCENES THE UNITED STATES TRIED TO PREVENT?

A: WELL, I ANSWERED A QUESTION EARLIER ON THE QUESTION IF WE HAD ANY PRIOR INFORMATION ON A COUP D'ETAT, AND YOU HAVE THAT. AND ON THE QUESTION, SAY OF ARCH-BISHOP MAKARIOS ASKING OUR AMBASSADOR IF WE COULD SORT OF DO ANYTHING TO TAKE SOME ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS, THE ANSWER TO THAT IS NO, THERE WAS NO SUCH REQUEST.

Q: WE HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS, SECRET TALKS, NO CABLE TRAFFIC, TRYING TO HEAD THIS THING OFF?
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A: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO, WE HAVE NOT." KISSINGER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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